(b) Figures of amount paid as commission to Agents of LIC are given below:

		(Rs. in Crores)
(1)	Year ended 31.3.1996:	1073.00
(2)	Year ended 31.3.1997:	1300.00

(c) and (d) LIC agents are paid commission as per Agents Rules. Agents are already given facilities by way of advance for conveyance, telephone, computer, office equipments, housing, festivals, etc.

[English]

Import of Tyres

625. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to import new rubber tyres and retreaded tyres;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Tyre Manufacturers Association have submitted a memorandum stating that the decision of the Government to freely import new as well as retreaded tyres of cars, tractors and other vehicles should be reviewed; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Under the current Export & Import Policy, import of new and retreaded tyres is permitted freely.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Representation has been received from Automobile Tyres Manufacturers' Association and a decision on the representation shall be taken in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments.

Fixed Deposits by Companies

626. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit some selected companies to raise fix deposits;

(b) if so, the criteria worked out for selecting the companies;

(c) the names of the companies granted permission in this regard so far;

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The companies raising deposits have to adhere to the provisions of Section 58A of the Companies Act and the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975 or the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and RBI Directions, as the case may be.

Sub-section 58A(9) and 58A(10) of the Companies Act, 1956 provide a mechanism for redressal to the investor when a company fails to repay any deposit or part thereof in accordance with the terms and conditions of such deposit.

[Translation]

Inflation Rate

627. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rates of all consumer goods and inflation rate are constantly increasing after announcement of general budget this year;

(b) if so, the quantum of increase in consumer price index registered every month; and

(c) the rate of inflation recorded in the same period of 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The rise in the price of consumer goods as reflected in the movement of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base, 1982 = 100) indicates that annual point-to-point inflation which had registered a rise of 10.8 per cent in February, 1997 decelerated to 7.3 per cent in May, 1997.

(b) Monthly Increase in the Consumer Price Index registered between February 1997 to May 1997 is listed below:

Month	% increase in CPI over preceding month
February	0.0
March	0.3
April	0.9
May	–0.6